

Appl. No. 10/808,697
Reply to Office action of 12/17/2004

Attorney Docket No. WS-106

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification the Abstract was amended to reduce the number of words from 176 to 135 and the number of lines from 14 to 11. This should be within the suggested 50 to 150 words and 25 lines, as was discussed in the telephonic interview of January 26, 2005.

A new paragraph including the description of FIG. 10 was added and the previous lines were amended to accommodate this insertion.

Figure 10 was amended to include the legend "Prior Art".

The priority requirement was discussed in the above mentioned telephonic interview and it was agreed that the declaration is not required to include related US application references to claim priority benefits.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 22, 31, and 32 were amended. Claims 7, 33, and 37 were canceled. Claims 2-4, 8-21, 23-30, 34-36, 38-44 remain unchanged.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (US Patent Application Publication U.S. 2004/0093309).

The Examiner argued that Nakamura discloses an apparatus, system and method for electronic ticket management and electronic ticket distribution authentication. The Examiner further argued that Nakamura's system includes the following elements:

- A. A ticket database server (111) for managing data concerning electronic tickets which the Examiner considered to be analogous to the Voucher host system of this invention.
- B. A non-contact IC card (1000), which the Examiner considered analogous to the voucher smart card of this invention.

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C. An electronic ticket issuer (202) in cooperation with an electronic ticket seller (130), which can be a store terminal (150) and which the Examiner considered to be analogous to the Voucher terminal of this invention.

After careful examination of the cited patent application by Nakamura et al., we find the following differentiation.

The voucher terminal of this invention is not an electronic ticket issuer that issues electronic tickets in cooperation with the electronic ticket sellers to the users of the information storage chips in which the electronic ticket information is stored. The voucher terminal of this invention is a communication device that comprises a subscriber identification module (SIM) card slot and a smart card reader/writer module that is electrically connected to the SIM card slot. The smart card reader/writer module is adapted to receive and read/write information from/to the voucher card, respectively. Neither Nakamura nor any of the other cited prior art documents suggest either alone or in combination the above mentioned system for generating and storing electronic voucher with the specific communication device configuration. This particular communication device configuration has the advantages of universality in the connectivity of the card reader/write by connecting it to the SIM card slot, rather than to a parallel or serial port and secure authentication through the SIM module of the communication device.

Claims 1 and 22 were amended to include this differentiation of the invention from the presented prior art. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 22 are patentably distinguishable from Nakamura et al., or any of the cited prior art documents taken alone or in combination. Claims 2-6 and 8-21 depend upon claim 1 and claims 23-32, 34-36, and 38-44 depend upon claim 22. Since claims 1 and 22 are distinguishable from the cited prior art they should also be distinguishable from the cited prior art.

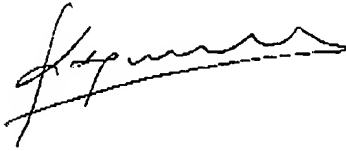
In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested and allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited.

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If this response is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at 617-558-5389

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Mailing

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.10 that this correspondence is being faxed on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450